

Introduced by Senator Simitian

March 7, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31—Relative to the Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 31, as introduced, Simitian. Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Education.

This measure would establish the Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Education to conduct continuous review of the master plan and the conditions of education in California. The measure would provide that the joint committee would have and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating committees and their members by the Joint Rules of the Senate and the Assembly. The measure would authorize the Senate Committee on Rules to make money available from the Senate Operating Fund for the expenses of the joint committee and its members. The measure would require the joint committee to submit a report on its activities to the Legislature at the end of each regular session of the Legislature.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Education is the most important function of the
- 2 State of California, and is essential to the cultural, political, and
- 3 economic health of the state and nation; and
- 4 WHEREAS, California's population is rich in ethnic and
- 5 cultural diversity, which is a resource that should continually be
- 6 developed to ensure the ongoing success of the state and its
- 7 residents; and
- 8 WHEREAS, California has developed an extraordinary
- 9 educational system, from preschool to the postgraduate level,

1 with an unprecedented investment of public and private moneys
2 and the energy and commitment of countless individuals; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1960, California established a master plan for
4 the development, expansion, and integration of the facilities,
5 curriculum, and standards of postsecondary education in junior
6 colleges, the California State University system, the University
7 of California system, and independent and private institutions of
8 higher education in the state to meet California's needs during the
9 10 years following the establishment of the master plan; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1999, the California Legislature created the
11 Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education to
12 expand that postsecondary master plan to incorporate all stages
13 of education, from preschool through university study, into a new
14 master plan for all of education that would provide a blueprint for
15 education in California for the 21st century, support lifelong
16 learning for all Californians, and serve as an example to other
17 states by raising the standard for educational excellence; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2002, the joint committee adopted a new
19 Master Plan for Education that provides a vision to ensure that
20 California students will become effective and productive lifelong
21 learners, and that also provides an action plan to guide state and
22 local decisions affecting curriculum, teaching, finance, facilities,
23 governance, and other aspects of the educational enterprise in a
24 manner that can ensure that Californians' educational needs
25 would be met; and

26 WHEREAS, Since 1960, it has been the responsibility of the
27 Legislature to review educational master plans each decade to
28 ensure that the promises made to students and to all Californians
29 are being met; and

30 WHEREAS, The increasing demand for education at all stages
31 of life, the growing diversity of the circumstances and needs of
32 California students, the evolving requirements of the global
33 economy, and the rapid expansion of information now demand a
34 more intensive review of the conditions of education in
35 California and the degree to which students' needs are being met
36 than the prior review schedule allowed; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
38 *thereof concurring*, That the Joint Committee on the Master Plan
39 for Education is established to conduct continuous review of the

1 master plan and the conditions of education in California; and be
2 it further

3 *Resolved*, That the joint committee and its members shall have
4 and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon
5 investigating committees and their members by the Joint Rules of
6 the Senate and the Assembly, as they are adopted and amended
7 from time to time, and the pertinent provisions of the Joint Rules
8 shall be applicable to this committee and its members; and be it
9 further

10 *Resolved*, That the Senate Committee on Rules may, as it
11 deems necessary, make money available from the Senate
12 Operating Fund for the expenses of the joint committee and its
13 members. Any expenditure of money for this purpose shall be
14 made in compliance with policies set forth by the Senate
15 Committee on Rules, and shall be subject to the approval of that
16 committee; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the joint committee shall, within 15 days of
18 authorization, and in a manner that is consistent with the normal
19 annual appropriation process for funding legislative committees,
20 present its initial budget to the Senate Committee on Rules for its
21 review, comment, and approval; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the joint committee shall submit a report on its
23 activities to the Legislature at the end of each regular session of
24 the Legislature.